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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/709,586	05/15/2004	Mats Sandborn	00173.0055.PCUS00	1558
28694	7590	05/05/2006	EXAMINER	
NOVAK DRUCE & QUIGG, LLP 1300 EYE STREET NW 400 EAST TOWER WASHINGTON, DC 20005			DUNWOODY, AARON M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3679	

DATE MAILED: 05/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/709,586	Applicant(s) SANDBORN ET AL.	
	Examiner Aaron M. Dunwoody	Art Unit 3679	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 February 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 8 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,6 and 7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,4 and 5 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 February 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/3/2006</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) filed 2/6/2006 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Drawings

The drawings were received on 2/6/2006. These drawings are approved.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent 6027144, Hagen et al.

In regards to claim 1, Hagen et al disclose a coupling device for conduits of pressurized media, the coupling device comprising: two coupling parts, each having a casing surface, couplable together as a female part (2a,2b) and a male part (4) which is insertable into the female part; a locking device arranged to allow coupling of the male part with the female part and to, in an inner locking position, hold the coupling parts coupled together, the locking device comprises at least one locking member at one of the coupling parts that is arranged to, in the locking position, attach into a recess in the other coupling part with one or several sealing members being arranged to, in the

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locking position, achieve sealing engagement between the coupling parts, with the second coupling part having a further recess in which the locking member is brought into locking engagement of the coupling parts in an outer locking position at the coupling of the two coupling parts with each other, and in which outer locking position an incomplete sealing is achieved and in which the two coupling parts are locked and incompletely coupled together and thereby being prevented from coming apart and being allowed to be brought together to the inner locking position for a complete coupling of the coupling parts by means of which, in the presence of a pressurized media, an indication can be obtained that the outer locking position has been assumed due to the presence of leakage of pressurized media, and wherein the casing surface of one of the coupling parts exhibits a leakage groove which runs at an acute angle towards the radial plane of the coupling part the leakage groove having an axial inner end and an axial outer end, and is so positioned that in the inner locking position the leakage groove is positioned axially outside of the sealing member and in the outer locking position the axial inner end of the leakage groove is positioned axially inside of the sealing member and the axial outer end of the leakage groove is positioned axially outside of the sealing member by means of which pressurized media can pass by the sealing member.

In regards to claim 3, Hagen et al disclose the leakage indication consisting of an audible leakage sound.

In regards to claim 6, Hagen et al disclose a method for providing a coupling device for conduits of pressurized media, the method comprising: manufacturing two

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coupling parts which can be (capable of) coupled to each other in the form of a female part and a male part which is insertable into the female part, with a locking device allowing the coupling of the male part to the female part and which in an inner locking position holds the coupling parts completely coupled together, with at least one locking member at one of the coupling parts in the locking position attaching into a recess in the other coupling part, with one or several sealing members in the locking position achieving sealing between the coupling parts with the other coupling part, exhibiting a further recess in which the locking member is brought to locking of the coupling parts in an outer locking position when the two coupling parts are coupled to each other in which outer locking position there is in complete sealing, and in which the two coupling parts are locked and incompletely coupled together, so that they are prevented from coming apart, but are allowed to be further brought together to the inner locking position for the complete coupling of the coupling parts by means of which, in the presence of pressurized media, an indication that the outer locking position has been assumed can be obtained by means of the presence of leakage of pressurized media wherein upon the casing surface of one of the coupling parts there is made a leakage groove which extends at an acute angle towards the radial plane of the coupling part with an axial inner end and an axial outer end, and is so positioned that in the inner locking position, the leakage groove is positioned axially outside of the sealing member and in the inner locking position the axially inner end of the leakage groove is positioned axially inside of the sealing member and its axially outer end is positioned axially outside of the sealing member, by means of which pressurized media can pass by the sealing member (6);

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and manufacturing the leakage groove together with at least some surfaces of the two coupling parts by means of rotating machining.

In regards to claim 7, Hagen et al disclose the relative rotational speeds, axial speed of movement and radial motion of the tool used for the rotating machining and the coupling part are synchronized so that the chosen extension of the leakage groove is obtained (implied).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 2, 4 and 5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 8 is allowed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 2/6/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Hagen et al discloses multiple paths of a leakage groove rather than a single leakage groove. The Examiner disagrees. The term "comprises" is inclusive and fails to exclude unrecited steps. In re Horvitz, 168 F 2d 522, 78 USPQ 79 (CCPA 1948). The use of the term "comprising" to introduce the claimed structure means that the device covered by these claims may involve many more elements than those positively recited. Ex parte Gottzein et al., 168 USPQ 176 (PTO Bd. App. 1969). Therefore, Hagen et al met the claim limitations.

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Applicant argues that Hagen et al fails to a single, continuous groove at an acute angle to a radial plain. The Examiner disagrees. In Figures 1, 5, 7 and 8, Hagen et al discloses to a single, continuous groove at an acute angle to a radial plain. Therefore, Hagen et al met the claim limitations.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron M. Dunwoody whose telephone number is 571-272-7080. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Aaron M Dunwoody
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3679

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